

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**HB 51 – SB 247**

February 7, 2007

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires that two or more students who initiate a physical attack on an individual student on school property or at a school activity be expelled for not less than one year and sent to an alternative school. The Director of Schools may modify this expulsion on a case-by-basis.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures\* – Exceeds \$100,000**

Assumptions:

- There would be no impact on the BEP funding formula since funds follow the student and these students are specifically required to attend an alternative school if expelled from the regular classroom.
- Current law requires the establishment and availability of alternative schools for students in grades 7-12. LEAs have the option to establish alternative schools for expelled or suspended students in grades 1-6.
- Under the bill alternative schools would be required for grades 1-6 since this offense is not age-specific.
- In FY05-06, 30,201 students were suspended for fighting. If 25% or 7,500 met the criteria set out by the bill and were sent to alternative schools, some additional teachers would be required in those schools and local government expenditures would increase. The number of additional teachers cannot reasonably be estimated, but the statewide cost would exceed \$100,000.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director